



Emil Fred Graf

December 11, 1926 - March 6, 2026

Emil Fred Graf, 99, passed away March 6, 2026 from complications related to congestive heart failure and cancer. At the time of his death, he was a resident at Arbor Landing in Pawley's Island, South Carolina.

Fred was born 11 December 1926 in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania to Emil Graf (1892–1978) and Rose Suter (1898–1973). His parents had immigrated to the U.S. from Switzerland. His three siblings were Helen Rose Graf (1925–2008), George Ernest Graf (1928–2020) and a sister who died at birth.

As a child and during the depression of the 1930's Fred spent several years of his childhood with family in Switzerland before returning to Collingdale, Pennsylvania.

At age 18, he was drafted into the armed services. He served as a merchant marine in 1950 and in the U.S. Marine Corps as a private 1st class and corporal. He was released from active duty in 1954.

April 15, 1950, Fred married Dolores Ann "D" Bothum (1930–2019) in Wilmington, Delaware. They had three sons: Steven Fred, Bruce Kenneth, and Barry Lee Graf.

Fred worked for 20 years with the Atlantic Refining Company before entering full time ministry. He graduated from Philadelphia College of the Bible with a bachelor's in Christian education. Fred was ordained in 1970 in Brookhaven Pennsylvania at the Faith Baptist Church. He began his years of ordained ministry at age 44. He served Faith Baptist church as Minister of Christian Education and Assistant Pastor. Fred, D and children had been members of

Faith Baptist Church 18 years prior to Fred's ordination.

As the years passed, his love for counseling grew, while also remaining active in various church ministries. He returned to school to get further training in counseling.

In 1997 Fred and D moved to Pawley's Island South Carolina from Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. He and his wife, D, were members at Pawley's Island Community Church. Fred taught Bible classes, did guest speaking, conducted marriages and provided family counseling for both the church and Pawleys Island community. He continued to be active in ministry until 4 days before his death. He was a beloved friend, counselor, mentor, and teacher to many at Pawleys Island Community Church and the Pawleys Island Community.

Fred is survived by 3 sons (Steve and Jan Graf; Bruce Graf, and Barry and Joan Graf), 10 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

On Saturday March 14, 2026 the family will receive friends at Pawleys Island Community Church 10304 Ocean Hwy, Pawleys Island, SC from 10 AM to 11 AM. Fred's Celebration of Life Service will follow at 11 AM.

Following the Celebration of Life service Fred will be interred beside his beloved wife, D, at Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church Cemetery with a brief graveside service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Martha's House, PO Box 434, Georgetown, SC, 29442 or to the Pawleys Island Community Church, 10304 Ocean Hwy, Pawleys Island, SC 29585.

To view the livestream of the service please go to <https://www.pawleysisland.church/fred>

Previous Events

Receive Friends

MAR 14. 10:00 AM (ET)

Pawleys Island Community Church
10304 Ocean Hwy
Pawleys Island, SC 29585-6501
(843) 237-4449

Celebration of Life Service

MAR 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pawleys Island Community Church
10304 Ocean Hwy
Pawleys Island, SC 29585
(843) 237-4449

Tribute Wall



“ Goldfinch Funeral Services created a Webcast in memory of Emil Fred Graf



Goldfinch Funeral Home - March 16 at 04:02 PM



“ Fred was a phenominal man that helped my family and many others, by the grace of Jesus Christ. He will be missed! Sorry for your (our) loss.

Mike Stollenmaier - March 15 at 04:22 PM



“ Andrew and Karla Lefin purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Emil Fred Graf.



Andrew and Karla Lefin - March 13 at 01:18 PM



“ Andrew and Karla Lefin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Emil Fred Graf.

Andrew and Karla Lefin - March 13 at 01:18 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Emil Fred Graf.

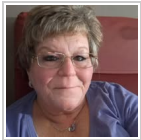


March 11 at 02:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Emil Fred Graf.

March 11 at 02:53 PM



“ Mr, Fred was counseling at Martha's house when I met him. He sure helped me a lot to realize some of my problems. I sure do love him and so thankful for all he did for me there. I know y'all lost a diamond. He's with his wife and rejoice and in heaven my prayers are with you.

Sherry Pugsley - March 11 at 12:29 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Emil Fred Graf.



March 10 at 02:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Emil Fred Graf.

March 10 at 02:24 PM



“ We were luckily introduced to the Graf family 60 years ago and only three days after arriving in NY as new immigrants to the USA. We moved into the third floor of their home on Seminary Avenue. We were greeted by Fred, D, Steve, Bruce and Barry, our new family! We had landed on our feet!

They were so generous with their time and love that our transition to our New World was made easy. When Val's family came to visit they swapped their Rambler Wagon for our Corvair.

We moved to a home of our own after two years but stayed in touch over the years. Fred accepted that we did not share his faith and in 2022, after a hearty breakfast at his favorite local restaurant, he solemnly set us on our way, back home to Pennsylvania.

Many thanks to Fred, and the Graf family for making our move so easy,

Val and Dave Woodley and family

Val and Dave Woodley - March 10 at 11:03 AM



“ (YOUR TEAM) The Virtua JV Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Emil Fred Graf.



(YOUR TEAM) The Virtua JV Team - March 10 at 10:09 AM

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“ (YOUR TEAM) The Virtua JV Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Emil Fred Graf.

(YOUR TEAM) The Virtua JV Team - March 10 at 10:09 AM

KA

“ Our sincere condolences for the loss of your loved one. May cherished memories and earnest prayer bring comfort for family and friends at this time. Isaiah 41:10

Kathryn - March 09 at 02:39 PM

AS

Dear Barry,

Losing someone we love is one of life's most profound sorrows. I hope you find comfort in the many beautiful memories you shared together, and strength in knowing that those we love never truly leave us — they live on in our hearts and in all that they have given us.

May God grant your father eternal peace and rest, and may He surround you and your family with grace, comfort, and healing in the days to come.

With warmth and sincere sympathy,

Ahmed Shehata

Ahmed Shehata - March 10 at 11:23 PM